Restructured TUF Scheme

*88. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently approved the restructured Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) scheme;

(b) if so, whether any relief has been provided to the textile exporters who have been severely hit due to appreciation of rupee against dollar and are battling for survival;

(c) if so, the details thereof and measures proposed to encourage the entry of potential players into this sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme does not address the problems arising out of Rupee appreciation against dollar.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Incursions by Chinese Army into Indian Territory

*89. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ascertained the facts regarding media reports quoting the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on recurrent incursions by Chinese Army into Indian territory in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government has taken up the specific instances of such incursions during recent high level interactions with China;

(c) whether it is also a fact that various Government agencies have differing stands on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reasons for discord among Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The perception of Line of Actual Control (LAC) of both India and China overlaps at many places of India-China border. From time to time, on account of differences in the perception of the LAC, situation have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the LAC. In order to address this issue, the matter has been taken up at appropriate level in the Government. The two sides have signed the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in 1993, Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBM) in the Military Field in 1996, protocol on Modalities for the implementations of CBMs in Military Field along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China Border Areas, in 2005 and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2006. As a follow up to this MoU, the Annual Defence Dialogue between the two sides was held at Beijing during 12-13 November, 2007.

Government regularly takes up such perceived violations along the LAC with the Chinese side through established mechanisms set up under these Agreement/Protocol including the Joint Working Group, the Expert Group border personnel meetings, flag meeting and normal diplomatic channels. Mechanism to address instance of instrusion along the LAC are well established. Peace abd tranquility has been maintained on the border areas.

Government of India keeps a constant watch on all development having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures to safeguard it. Furthermore, various Government agencies involved in the issue do not have differing perceptions on the issue.

Publication of official history of wars

†*90. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kargil Committee had recommended to publish the official history of Indo-China war of 1962, Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 and Kargil war of 1999; and

(b) if so, by when the said history would be published?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The terms of reference of the Kargil Review Committee was to review the events leading up to the Pakistani aggression in the Kargil District. The Committee among other things emphasized on the necessity of publishing authentic accounts of the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 besides the Kargil war of 1999.

(b) A Committee to review the publication of War Histories was constituted by the Government. The Committee has given its recommendations which are being considered for arriving at a final decision on this issue.

Eradication of child labour

*91. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy initiative measures that have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to eradicate child labour in the country;

(b) the details of efforts made so far by Government in this respect; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated and being implemented by Government alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Child labour envisages strict enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 with simultaneous efforts towards rehabilitation of both parents and children through a project based action plan linkages with the poverty eradication and income generation programmes of the Government. Considering the magnitude and nature of the problem, Government is following a gradual and sequential approach of initially covering children working in hazardous occupations and process. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 there are 15 occupations and 57th process banned for the employment of children below the age of 14 years. State Governments are the appropriate authority for the enforcement of the Act for the areas under their jurisdiction.

For the rehabilitation of child labour Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work are admitted into special schools, where they are provided with education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend and health care facilities etc. In addition, INDUS Child Labour Project, a jointly funded Project of Government of India and US Department of Labour is also being implemented in 21 districts. Government is also implementing a Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organization in the districts, which are not covered under NCLP/INDUS Projects. An amount of Rs. 175 crores has been allocated for the purpose under these schemes during the current financial year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.